

**Amendments to the Claims:**

1-11. (Cancelled)

12. (New) A video production switcher, comprising;

an integrated digital video effects processor having processing elements,

one or more keyers;

one or more mixers;

one or more effects devices; and

routing elements,

wherein the digital video effects processor has a dedicated connection from the keyers, the mixers, the effects devices, and the routing elements to the processing elements of the digital video effects processor.

13. (New) The video production switcher of claim 12, further comprising:

a microprocessor; and

software,

wherein control of the digital video effects processor is performed by the microprocessor and software.

14. (New) The video production switcher of claim 13, further comprising an integrated digital video effects (DVE) unit, wherein effects and memories of the DVE unit are recalled by the microprocessor and the software.

15. (New) The video production switcher of claim 12, where the video is routed from within the processing path of the multi-level effects to the digital video effects processor, allowing partially composited signals to be processed by the internal digital video effects processor.

16. (New) The video production switcher of claim 12, wherein video within the keyers is routed directly to the digital video effects processor, and a resultant video is re-inserted into the keyers.

17. (New) The video production switcher of claim 12, further comprising dedicated keying resources to composite effects and transitions performed by the digital video effects processor, without using keyers of multi-level effects.

18. (New) The video production switcher of claim 12, further comprising a user interface to manipulate the digital video effects processor, wherein the digital video effects processor is fully integrated into the user interface.

19. (New) The video production switcher of claim 12, further comprising two or more integrated digital video effects processors.

20. (New) The video production switcher of claim 12, further comprising means for allowing storage and recall of effects and memories on the video production switcher simultaneously with effects and memories of the digital video effects processor in an integrated manner.

21. (New) The video production switcher of claim 17, further comprising means for allowing selection of effects, and pre-layer video to be manipulated by the digital video effects processor, and composited using the dedicated keying resources.

22. (New) The video production switcher of claim 18, wherein the user interface includes at least one of a dedicated control panel, and a software application on a personal computer.